

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER

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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks.

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DEMOCRACY

AMERICA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD 2005: OPINION LEADERS TURN CAUTIOUS, PUBLIC LOOKS HOMEWARD

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. November 2005

http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Pew-Americas_Place_2005

Produced in collaboration with the Council on Foreign Relations, this quadrennial study examines the foreign policy attitudes of the U.S. general public and U.S. opinion leaders -- state and local government officials; security and foreign affairs experts; military officers; news media, university, think tank, and religious leaders; and scientists and engineers. Conducted September 5 - October 31, 2005, the survey reflects the major changes in the world that have occurred since the previous poll was taken just prior to the 9/11 attacks.

ELECTIONS--UNITED STATES

Source: FairVote

<http://www.fairvote.org/whopicks/>

FairVote's Who Picks the President report tracks television spending and campaign visits by major candidates during the height of the 2004 presidential election. The report seeks to ascertain just how wide the gulf between swing and non-swing states has become in a modern election, and the conclusion--vast--is hardly reassuring for supporters of American Democracy.

INTERNET PRIVACY

Source: Congressional Research Service (via Center for Democracy and Technology/Open CRS)

http://opencrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL31408_20051019.pdf

The following table provides summary information on pending Internet privacy-related legislation. It should be noted that although some bills have similar titles or intents, the details may vary. For example, some bills seek to protect 'personal information', while others protect 'personally identifiable information' (PII). Some concern 'data', while others concern 'electronic data'. Definitions may vary, or, in some cases, the FTC is directed to determine a definition.

ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

EXPANDING THE FRONTIERS OF OUR DIGITAL FUTURE: REDUCING SOFTWARE PIRACY TO ACCELERATE GLOBAL IT BENEFITS

Business Software Alliance. December 2005

http://www.bsa.org/idcstudy/pdfs/White_Paper.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This paper is based upon findings from an analysis (conducted by IDC) of the Information Technology (IT) sector's economic impact in 70 countries, and the benefits that can accrue to countries that reduce software piracy. It finds that the IT sector's ability to create economic benefits can not only continue, but accelerate. However, the continued growth, vitality and innovation of the global IT sector are increasingly dependent upon reducing software piracy worldwide.

OFFSHORING OF SERVICES: AN OVERVIEW OF THE ISSUES [GAO-06-05]

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). November 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d065.pdf>

Offshoring generally refers to an organization's purchase of goods or services from abroad that were previously produced domestically. Extensive public debate has arisen about both the potential benefits of services offshoring, such as lower consumer prices and higher U.S. productivity, as well as the potential costs, such as increased job displacement for selected U.S. workers. GAO produced this report to help policy makers better understand the potential impacts and policy implications of services offshoring.

THE POLITICS AND ECONOMICS OF OFFSHORE OUTSOURCING

N. Gregory Mankiw and Phillip Swagel

American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research

December 7, 2005

http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.23536/pub_detail.asp

Mankiw and Swagel, the former Council of Economic Advisors chairman and chief of staff, respectively, analyze the contentious issue of offshore outsourcing. The first part of their working paper documents how popular concern about outsourcing increased during 2003 and accelerated as the U.S. 2004 presidential election approached. The second part surveys the empirical literature on offshore outsourcing, with an emphasis on outsourcing of business services.

THE ROLE OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S. LABOR MARKET

Nabeel A. Alsalam and Ralph E. Smith

Congressional Budget Office. November 2005

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/68xx/doc6853/11-10-Immigration.pdf>

The role of immigrants in the U.S. labor market has long generated substantial interest among policymakers. Lawmakers have considered a broad range of issues concerning foreign-born workers -- from the number of immigrants permitted to enter the United States and the criteria for determining who is admitted, to the rules governing their employment, and myriad questions related to undocumented workers. This paper, requested by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, is the third of several reports by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) that present facts and research on immigration to help inform the agency's federal budget and economic projections. The paper focuses on the role of immigrants in the labor market -- the skills they bring to that market; the types of jobs they hold; their compensation; and their impact on the native-born workforce. In keeping with CBO's mandate to provide objective, nonpartisan analysis, this paper makes no recommendations.

THE STATE OF FOOD INSECURITY IN THE WORLD 2005 [SOFI 2005]

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). November 2005

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/008/a0200e/a0200e.pdf>

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

Subtitled, "Eradicating world hunger - key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals," SOFI 2005 focuses on the critical importance of reducing hunger, both as the explicit target of the World Food Summit (WFS) and as the essential condition for achieving the MDGs. The report's first section analyses long-term trends in reducing undernourishment, and explores the impact of economic growth, governance and natural disasters. The second section examines each of the MDGs, highlighting ways that hunger holds back development and that hunger reduction could accelerate progress. Tables (pp. 30-35) provide FAO's latest estimates of undernourishment and of progress towards the WFS and MDG targets for reducing hunger; and key indicators for the other MDGs.

TRADE INTEGRATION IN THE AMERICAS

M. Angeles Villarreal

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service

November 22, 2005

http://opencrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL33162_20051122.pdf

Since the 1990s, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have been a focus of United States trade policy, as demonstrated by the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the U.S.-Chile Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and the Central America-Dominican Republic Free Trade Agreement. Currently, the United States is in the process of completing FTA negotiations with Andean countries, and of reactivating talks for a U.S.-Panama FTA and a Free Trade Area of the Americas.

UNITED STATES--TRADE DEFICIT

Congressional Research Service (via Open CRS)

http://opencrs.cdt.org/rpts/RL33140_20051104.pdf

Contrary to the global saving glut hypothesis, data show that world saving is close to its lowest level in decades. However, low interest rates (although not unusually low by historical standards) suggest that worldwide investment demand is probably low as well. Data also show that most of the change in worldwide saving in the past few years has been due to an increase in government saving in the developing world and a decrease in government saving in the United States. Increasingly, U.S. net capital inflows have been from official rather than private sources, which suggests that global imbalances are not primarily the result of decisions by private investors and that (because of the fall in U.S. government saving) the trade deficit to a great extent may indeed have been 'made in the U.S.A.'

EDUCATION

EDUCATION--FINANCIAL AID

National Center for Education Statistics

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2006153>

This report uses data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) to examine median prices of attendance, financial aid, and net prices for first-time, full-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduates over the period 1999-2000 to 2001-02. To capture the interaction between price of attendance and financial aid patterns over time and to take into account inflation during this period, indices of changes in three different types of prices—tuition, price of attendance, and net price—were developed for this report. The major findings of the study are that during this period, both the median price of attendance and the median value of total aid increased as a faster rate than inflation at public 4-year institutions, private not-for-profit, 4-year institutions, and private for-profit, less-than-4-year institutions.

LONG-LIVED DIGITAL DATA COLLECTIONS: ENABLING RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

<http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2005/nsb0540/nsb0540.pdf>

National Science Foundation; National Science Board. September 2005. In response to the growing importance of digital data collections for research and education, the National Science Foundation's increasing investment in their creation and maintenance, and their rapid multiplication, the National Science Board formed the Long-lived Data Collections Task Force. This report provides the findings and recommendations from the task force's analysis of digital data collection policy issues, and seeks to frame the issues and begin a broad discourse. The Board anticipates that a broader dialog among other agencies in the U.S. and with international partners will be required.

ENVIRONMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE SPREAD OF BIRD FLU

Josh Rothstein

Foundation for Environmental Security & Sustainability. September 2005

http://www.fess-global.org/issuebriefs/environmental_factors_affecting_the_spread_of_bird_flu.pdf

The report notes that the mobility of today's global economy and society makes prevention of avian influenza in every country an international concern. Moreover, addressing environmental links to the spread of avian

influenza may provide essential information to delay, minimize, or even prevent a costly pandemic. The author contends that international cooperation in addressing these issues is essential. He concludes that once a pandemic begins, nations likely will devote their resources to the protection of their own population. Therefore, it is necessary to immediately commence international programs to identify environmental links contributing to the spread of avian influenza, and develop effective and appropriate countermeasures.

GLOBAL ISSUES

2005 REPORT OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. November 2005

<http://www.state.gov/r/adcompd/rls/55903.htm#introduction>

The bipartisan Advisory Commission's 2005 report on U.S. government international communications efforts examines the Commission's recommendations issued in its previous report, and reviews the level of implementation achieved to date. The Commission offers its review in three sections: short-term communication, long-term communication and international broadcasting. This report also presents a vision for bringing public diplomacy into the 21st century and offers thoughts on how public diplomacy practitioners can take advantage of 21st century capabilities. The Commission members emphasize that reforming public diplomacy will require a long-term, sustained effort.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

World Health Organization

http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html

From [press release](#): "The first-ever World Health Organization (WHO) study on domestic violence reveals that intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence in women's lives - much more so than assault or rape by strangers or acquaintances. The study reports on the enormous toll physical and sexual violence by husbands and partners has on the health and well-being of women around the world and the extent to which partner violence is still largely hidden."

GLOBAL MALARIA CONTROL: U.S. AND MULTINATIONAL INVESTMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES [GAO-06-147R]

United States General Accounting Office (GAO). November 16, 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d06147r.pdf>

This report describes investments made by the U.S. government to support the implementation of the national malaria control programs in malaria-endemic countries, and the programs' key strategies. The report's authors interviewed officials and reviewed financial and program documentation from such U.S. agencies as USAID, the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and National Institutes of Health (NIH); and from multinational organizations to which the U.S. government contributes, including the Global Fund, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization's (WHO) RBM Department, and the World Bank.

HUNGER--STATISTICS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Just Released, http://www.fao.org/documents/show_cdr.asp?url_file=/docrep/008/a0200e/a0200e00.htm

Available by chapter or as a single PDF file. Abstract:

Only ten years now remain before the 2015 deadline by which world leaders have pledged to reduce hunger and extreme poverty by half and to make substantial gains in education, health, social equity, environmental sustainability and international solidarity. The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2005 examines progress towards the World Food Summit goals and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), focusing on the critical importance of reducing hunger, not only as the explicit target of MDG 1 but as an essential condition for reaching the other MDGs. The report presents compelling evidence that hunger and malnutrition are major causes of the deprivation and suffering targeted by all of the other MDGs.

ORPHANS OF CONFLICT: CARING FOR THE INTERNALLY DISPLACED

Donald Steinberg

United States Institute of Peace. October 2005

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr148.html>

The crisis of internally displaced persons (IDPs) -- those who are driven from their homes by conflict, human rights abuses, natural disasters, and other causes, and who do not cross international borders -- affects some 25 million people in 50 countries. IDPs suffer severe humanitarian hardships, lack basic human rights, and are subject to abuse. The chaos and instability that accompanies internal displacement is an invitation to international crime, pandemic diseases, and trafficking in persons, drugs, and weapons. Host governments that are ultimately responsible for assisting, protecting, and returning IDPs to their homes are often unable or unwilling to do so.

THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN 2006: EXCLUDED AND INVISIBLE

United Nations Children's Fund. December 2005

http://www.unicef.org/sowc06/pdfs/sowc06_fullreport.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

In her foreword, UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman writes that in the past, this annual report on the world's children has focused on specific issues such as HIV/AIDS, girls' education, nutrition, child labor, and early childhood development. The 2006 report "highlights the millions of children who have not been the beneficiaries of past gains, the ones who are excluded or 'invisible'."

WHO MULTI-COUNTRY STUDY ON WOMEN'S HEALTH AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Gender, Women and Health Department

World Health Organization. November 2005

http://www.who.int/gender/violence/who_multicountry_study/en/index.html

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This summary report presents initial results based on interviews with 24,000 women by carefully trained interviewers. The study was implemented by WHO, in collaboration with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, research institutions and women's organizations in the participating countries. This report covers 15 sites and 10 countries: Bangladesh, Brazil, Ethiopia, Japan, Peru, Namibia, Samoa, Serbia and Montenegro, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania.

HIV/AIDS

THE GLOBAL FUND AND PEPFAR IN U.S. INTERNATIONAL AIDS POLICY

Raymond W. Copson

Library of Congress. Congressional Research Service

November 3, 2005

http://www.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33135_20051103.pdf

This CRS Report provides background on funding issues and policy options pertaining to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. The United States is responding to the international AIDS pandemic through PEPFAR, which includes bilateral programs and contributions to the multilateral Global Fund. PEPFAR overall appears on target to meet the Administration's five-year, \$15 billion spending plan. By contrast, the Global Fund, which relies on multiple donors, is reporting a funding gap that may prevent it from awarding new grants to fight the pandemic.

LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS

CRIME-UNITED STATES-STATISTICS

BJS

Just Released, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/ppus04.htm>

During 2004 the total Federal, State, and local adult correctional population - incarcerated or in the community - grew to nearly 7 million...Reports the number of persons on probation and parole, by State, at yearend 2004 and compares the totals with yearend 1995 and 2000. It lists the States with the largest and smallest parole and probation populations and the largest and smallest rates of community supervision, and identifies the States with the largest increases.

HATE CRIMES-UNITED STATES

Federal Bureau of Investigation

<http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/hc2004/openpage.htm>

Hate Crime Statistics, 2004 , chronicles 7,649 criminal incidents that law enforcement agencies reported--as motivated by a bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnicity, or sexual orientation--and includes information on 9,035 offenses, 9,528 victims, and 7,145 known offenders. Eleven of the 14 tables in this publication present various information about hate crime incidents, the types of offenses committed, and some aspects of the victims and the offenders. The remaining tables contain hate crime data aggregated by state or agency type and show the parameters of participation for law enforcement agencies that contributed data to the program.

MEXICO-DRUGS

Cato Institute

<http://www.cato.org/pubs/fpbriefts/fpb87.pdf>

Mexico is a major source of heroin, marijuana, and methamphetamine for the U.S. market as well as the principal transit and distribution point for cocaine coming in from South America. For years, people both inside and outside Mexico have worried that the country might descend into the maelstrom of corruption and violence that has long plagued the chief drug-source country in the Western Hemisphere, Colombia. There are growing signs that the 'Colombianization' of Mexico is now becoming a reality.

SECURITY CONTROLS ON THE ACCESS OF FOREIGN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS TO THE UNITED STATES

Commission on Scientific Communication and National Security

Center for Strategic and International Studies. October 2005

http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/051005_whitepaper.pdf

[Note: Contains copyrighted material]

This white paper argues that the United States has strongly benefited from foreign engagement in the past, and in an increasingly globalized society, the value of foreign interaction continues to increase. For instance, the nation's scientific and technical infrastructure has long been enriched by foreign students, scholars, and professionals, and is now highly dependent on them. Therefore, the health and vitality of the U.S. science and technology base - and the continued ability of that base to support economic competitiveness, improve health and quality of life, and maintain and enhance national and homeland security - depend critically on foreign interaction.

OTHER

None

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